

# GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

July 2022 Edition



## Policies Covered In The Edition



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2. LiFE Movement: A global initiative launched by India to promote "Lifestyle for the Environment"



3. Promotion of MSMEs in North Eastern Region and Sikkim

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## Agnipath Scheme: Revamping the Recruitment of Youths in Armed Forces

The most talked-about AGNIPATH scheme is approved by the Government of India to revolutionize the recruitment process in the Armed Forces and attract Indian youths to serve the nation. The youths selected under this scheme will be called "Agniveers" and selected for the engagement period of 4 years. It will envisage a major policy shift in the human resource management of the Armed Forces in India.



The poster features a background image of three soldiers in camouflage uniforms running through a hilly, dusty terrain. In the top right corner, there are three emblems: the Indian Army emblem, the Indian Navy emblem, and the Indian Air Force emblem. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Ensuring Brighter Future for  
***Agniveers***

**AGE RELAXATIONS FOR AGNIVEERS**

Upper age limit  
increased from 21 years  
to 23 years for 2022  
recruitment

3 years age relaxation  
beyond the prescribed  
upper age limit in  
CAPFs and Assam Rifles

The scheme is designed to lower the average age of the Indian armed forces to 24-26 years from the present level of 32 years. The engagement will physically and psychologically motivate the Indian youths and inculcate the feeling of patriotism in them. The culture of the Armed forces will bring more discipline and promote nationalism among youth and help in mobilizing the skilled

manpower to serve the nation with new josh. As per the government details, this year 46,000 Agniveers will be recruited and over 4-5 years the average age of the Armed Forces will come down and pump up new energy.

The short duration of service will benefit the nation, Armed Forces, society, and youth everyone. Over time, it will develop a self-disciplined patriotic trained brigade of personnel to work in emergencies like threats to national security, natural calamities, internal aggressions, etc.

### Details of Agnipath scheme



## AGNIPATH SCHEME

An Opportunity For Youth To Join Armed Forces & Serve Nation



**Eligibility:** Age limit for applicants from 17 and a half to 21 years.

### Recruitment:

- Candidates will be enrolled under the respective service act for a service duration of 4 years.
- No change in recruitment process.
- Centralised transparent screening assessment based on merit and demonstrated performance during service.
- 100% candidates can apply on volunteer basis to enrol in regular cadre.



To give relief to youths preparing for the Armed Forces, a one-time special waiver to the recruitment cycle for 2022 has been announced by the government and extended the upper age limit to 23 years who are falling short of the age limit ( $17\frac{1}{2}$  to 21 years) defined under the new recruitment policy. After completion of their service tenure, Agniveers will be titled to apply for permanent enrolment in the forces out of which 25% from each specific batch will be inducted into the regular cadre through a centralized process and performance review.

During the tenure, Agniveers will be offered a lucrative monthly package customized with the Risk and Hardship Allowances based on their service location. After completion, they will be eligible for the Income Tax exempted "Seva Nidhi Package" of around Rs 11.71 lakh. They will also receive the non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakh during their engagement period but shall have no entitlement of gratuity and provident fund benefits.

### Remuneration of Agniveers

Year	Customized Package (Monthly)	In Hand (70%)	Contribution to Agniveer Corpus Fund (70%)	Contribution to corpus fund by Gol
All figures in Rs (Monthly Contribution)				
1st Year	30000	21000	9000	9000
2nd Year	33000	23100	9900	9900
3rd Year	36500	25580	10950	10950
4th Year	40000	28000	12000	12000
Total contribution in Agniveer Corpus Fund after four years.			<b>Rs 5.02 lakh</b>	<b>Rs 5.02 lakh</b>

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1833747>

The Seva Nidhi will help them to envision their future dreams with financial independence and prepare for future job opportunities in other central and state government jobs. With their enhanced leadership qualities, skill, experience, and courage, the package will also help them to find avenues for their entrepreneurial mindset.

The public and private sector employer have welcomed this transformational policy reform alike and thus received the announcement of post-engagement employment opportunities for Agniveers.

**Attractive Perks****Ministry of Home Affairs**

10% Reservation in Central Armed Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles

**Ministry of Defence**

10% Reservation in Vacancies of Indian Coast Guard, Defence Civilian Posts, and 16 Defence Public Sector Units

**Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**

Employment Opportunities in 6 sectors of the Merchant Navy

**Assam Government**

Agniveers who are Permanent Residents of the state will be absorbed in Assam Police

**Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana State**

Priority in State Police Recruitment

Besides employment, the scheme has also found support from the Ministry of Education, Government of India with the launch of a special education program designed to benefit the youths. This will enable 10<sup>th</sup> pass Agniveers to receive 12 class pass certificates through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) during their engagement period. The customized course curriculum will be relevant to the current education system as well as to their respective service area. The program will be recognized across the country for higher education as well as employment purposes.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is also playing an integral part in this scheme and closely working in association with the Indian Armed Forces to train a skilled, disciplined, and self-motivated army of Indian youths who will be always ready to serve their country in distress. The provision of the Skill India Certificate for Agniveers during their tenure will give wings to their skill and entrepreneurial capabilities and enable them to find new roles and opportunities after their service tenure in various other sectors of the Indian economy.

Thus, the scheme will lead to a more youthful, energetic, and technically adept Indian force that is ready for any war/fight related to border security or external threats. This will strike a fine balance between young and experienced human resources in the Indian Armed Forces and provide opportunities for Indian youth to learn discipline, courage, patriotism, and nationalism with financial, academic, and skill enhancement benefits.

# LiFE Movement: A global initiative launched by India to promote "Lifestyle for the Environment"

**"Need of the hour to solve the challenge faced by our planet using human-centric, collective efforts and robust action that further sustainable development"- Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi, Prime Minister of India.**

As a global leader in effective climate action, he introduced the idea of LiFE during the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP<sub>26</sub>) in Glasgow in 2021.

The launch will mark the invitation of "LiFE Global Call for Papers" to find innovative ideas and suggestions to adopt an environment-conscious lifestyle that can help individuals, communities, and organizations globally. The implementing agency for this is the Indian think tank body NITI Aayog. The initiative is planned to utilize the knowledge of academia, research institutes, and industry for the "Pro-Planet People" (3Ps) action.

The launch was also witnessed by global leaders working in the social sector such as Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chairman, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ms. Inger Andersen, Global Head UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, Global Head UNDP, Mr. David Malpass, President, World Bank, Mr. Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister, Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog among others. One and all have praised, India's key role in mitigating climate action plan and leveraging the power of individual effort in the environment protection through such movement at the global level.

The initiative is emphasising the need for human-centric global efforts to resolve the challenges which our beautiful planet is facing at present. The robust action here will pave the way for sustainable development and benefit mankind world wide. The idea is to adopt a lifestyle that is in harmony with nature and the planet so that it cannot hamper its existence further.

The 3R(Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) are at the core of this initiative and thus urges for the creation of a circular economy as an integral part of all the developments and growth. For this, the use of local traditional knowledge can bring a major change and be applied to the present era for a better sustainable future. As it is the right time to mix technology with traditions and ensure a healthy and happy lifestyle for one and all.

In the contemporary world, there is an urgent need to make several efforts to save the earth and for this, a collaborative effort with a systematic approach is the key. The approach defined for the

movement is thus focused and it can find effective results related to environment protection through lifestyle up-gradation :

## Focus Areas

**1****Focus on Individual Behavior****2****Co-Creation at Global Level****3****Leverage Local Culture**

But to enhance its efficacy, the 1.3 billion Indians and people across the world need to play an active part and do their bit wholeheartedly. In recent times, the ban on single-use plastic at the Pan India level with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, promotion of e-mobility, increased capacity of renewable energy sources, etc are some of the many actions the government is implementing to combat climate action and protect the environment. The increasing forest cover and rising population of wild animals such as lions, tigers, and leopards in India showcase the effectiveness of the policy support for environment and ecology protection and find social support.

All this has been achieved through innovation, technology, and adaptability in policy making along with the effective cooperation from various stakeholders. The movement is thus ready to challenge the “Throw away” culture prevalent in India and the world. This will be achieved through the

growth of the circular economy and help in mitigating the risks. This will bring new choices to leverage its benefit for the protection of the environment and the planet. Here individual actions will make a way forward to global wellness and work as a booster to the efforts of government and businesses to encourage public and private investors to pour more investment into it in near future.



# Promotion of MSMEs in North Eastern Region and Sikkim

The fresh guidelines for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Promotion of MSMEs in North Eastern Region and Sikkim” has been approved by the Government of India to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in these Indian states. The Northeast and Sikkim are among the unexplored paradise of India and attract wildlife and nature lovers along with travelers and tourists around the year as the region is also home to various natural resources and a variety of cultures, cuisine, dialect, and people.

This makes it more promising for the development of MSMEs and significantly contributes to the economic growth of these beautiful and strategically important states. The implementation of this scheme is planned under the cycle of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission i.e., between the fiscal years 2021-22 to 2025-26.

## Three distinct components of the scheme

### Setting up of New and Modernization of Existing Mini Technology Centers

- To create common facilities to support manufacturing, testing, packaging, research & development, innovations related to product and process, training for natural resources like tea, jute, bamboo, fruits, spices, etc
- The Central government financial assistance will be 90%
- Projects costing above Rs 15 crore will receive maximum financial assistance of Rs 13.50 crore

### Development of New and Existing Industrial Estates

- Financial Assistance for the development of Industrial Estates and Flatted Factory complexes
- The Central government financial assistance is 90%
- For new development projects costing above Rs 15 crore and projects related to the development of existing estates costing above Rs 10 crore will receive maximum financial assistance of Rs 13.50 crore and Rs 9 crore respectively

### Development of Tourism Sector

- To develop common service facilities such as kitchen, bakery, laundry, IT infrastructure, cold storage, display center for local products, cultural activity center, etc around the home stay cluster in association with local MSMEs in the region
- The financial assistance of 90% with the cap of maximum Rs 4.50 crore will be given



Thus, the scheme is set to achieve the following objectives to develop MSMEs in the area and benefit local people, their well-being, and regional economic growth.

### Objectives of the scheme

- 1 Help in improving the adaption of technology, skills, quality infrastructure development, and market access for MSMEs
- 2 Promote Innovation, research & development for the regional growth
- 3 Develop common facilities around home stays to attract tourists and nature lovers
- 4 Infrastructure development linked with MSMEs to benefit entrepreneurs

The scheme is applicable for the projects undertaken by the State Government or any State Government organization which is working for the promotion of MSMEs in the region. The office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), New Delhi is designated to assist these entities to formulate a proposal for such developmental projects.



However, being a hub of natural resources, herbs, spices, etc, the states are still net importers for many of their needs, and this poses a major challenge for the development of the region. To strengthen the supply chain in this regard, MSME can play a major role and leverage the maximum potential of India's Act East Policy and rapid globalization for regional holistic development.

The higher skill demand-supply gap and lower literacy rate in the region are some of the significant threats to the human resource management of MSMEs. Here, cluster development can solve various problems related to their operation and leverage the benefit of traditional clusters, especially in the handloom and handicraft sectors. Thus, the capacity building along with financial assistance with strong policy commitment can utilize the potential of the region and integrate the regional growth into India's economic growth saga. This can make the way for turning the region into the gateway to the east and the world in its true sense and play a major role in the export promotion to increase India's foreign reserves.

## Resources

1. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1833747>
2. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1834658>
3. <https://www.mygov.in/campaigns/agniveer/?target=webview&type=campaign&nid=0>
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16. <https://www.eximbankindia.in/Assets/Dynamic/PDF/PublicationResources/SpecialPublications/MSMEs-in-North-East-India03-03-21.pdf>

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